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S/1998/684
23 July 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 23 JULY 1998 FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 9 (b) (i) OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 15 April 1998 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1998/326). Appendix III to that letter contains the summary report of the Deputy Executive Chairman of the Special Commission who was Head of the Team which conducted the initial entry to the presidential sites in Iraq.

During the initial entry, it was established that certain inaccuracies existed in the maps of four of the presidential sites which had been prepared by the United Nations Technical Mission in February 1998 (S/1998/166/Add.1). As recorded in paragraph 12 of the Deputy Executive Chairman's summary report, the entry team was able to plot more precisely the boundaries of those sites and to reach agreement with Iraq on the revised perimeters.

Adjustments were made and agreed to in respect of the sites at Tikrit, Tharthar, Radwaniyah Presidential site North and South and the Republican Palace in Baghdad. New maps have now been prepared in the light of those adjustments. Together with the original materials, the new maps are available for consultation in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, in the Map Room on the 38th floor between 2 and 5.30 p.m. from Monday to Friday. (Any enquiries in this regard may be addressed to Mr. Vladimir Grachev, ext. 3-3793).

I would be grateful if you could circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council so that the members of the Council will be fully informed regarding the current status of the maps of the presidential sites in Iraq.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER

98-21636 (E) 230798

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S/1998/685
23 July 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 22 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement made by the President of the European Union on Liberia and Sierra Leone, issued on 22 July 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Ernst SUCHARIPA
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

98-21630 (E) 230798 230798

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement by the President of the European Union on Liberia and Sierra Leone issued on 22 July 1998

The European Union welcomes the agreement between President Taylor of Liberia and President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone in Abuja on 2 July 1998, particularly with respect to the decisions taken with a view to strongly condemning the continuing rebel activities in Sierra Leone, controlling the activities and movements of demobilized former combatants and calling upon their citizens not to be involved in destabilizing actions against the other State.

The European Union strongly believes that this agreement should be a positive step in the promotion of peace and reconciliation in Sierra Leone and expresses the hope that it will similarly act as a positive step in stopping the cross-border movement of arms and ammunition.

Considering the extremely difficult situation prevailing on the ground, the European Union stresses the need for Liberia to control properly its borders and to facilitate the movement of aid to refugees.

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S/1998/686
24 July 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 23 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw to your attention the Declaration of the II Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries, which was held in Praia on 16 and 17 July 1998.

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Antonio MONTEIRO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations

98-21683 (E) 270798

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Annex

PRAIA DECLARATION

1. The Heads of State and Government of Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and São Tomé and Principe met in Praia on 16 and 17 July 1998, having on that occasion elected His Excellency Antonio Mascarenhas Monteiro, President of the Republic of Cape Verde, as President of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the CPLP for the next two years.

2. Since this was their first meeting following the Constitutive Summit of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, they attributed particular attention to a set of measures of consolidation and progressive affirmation of the CPLP.

   To that end, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of External Relations signed, in their presence, the following agreements:

   - General Agreement on Cooperation
   - Agreement of Cooperation between Higher Education Establishments
   - Modifying Protocol of the Orthographic Agreement of the Portuguese Language

3. Conscious of the fact that education is an essential factor in the development of Member States and in the improvement of the economic well-being and quality of life of our peoples, they adopted the "Statement of the Heads of State and Government of the CPLP on Education", in which they underlined the need to concentrate efforts on valuing human resources and committed themselves to undertaking a set of measures aimed at deepening community cooperation in the field of education.

   In this framework, they adopted a resolution encouraging the elaboration of principles of pedagogic orientation that would accompany programmes in the subjects of History and Literature in the *curricula* of the educational systems of the Member Countries of the CPLP, in order to promote a deeper understanding of the History and Literature of the respective peoples.

4. They took note of the approval and signature by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of External Relations of the review of the Statutes of the International Institute of the Portuguese Language (IILP) and laid the first stone of its Headquarters.

5. They took note, with satisfaction, of the efforts of the Executive Secretary and the Members of the Permanent Committee for Coordination, as well as its recommendations, towards harmonizing the original draft of the

Rules for the Special Fund and adapting it to current international standards.

6. They recognized the convenience of the Special Fund being able to receive additional contributions from international bodies and entities from the private sector and from civil society in general, as well as that those resources be channeled to development aid projects.

They agreed with the suggestion to allow a period of no longer than six months for the elaboration of the draft of the Rules of the Fund, by specialists, with a view to its approval by the next Council of Ministers of the CPLP.

7. They took good note of the Cape Verde Law that approves the Statute of the Lusophone Citizen that confers in Cape Verde special rights to citizens from Portuguese-speaking Countries.

The also took note of the organization in Portugal, next year, of an international colloquium to debate the question of lusophone citizenship, based on the analysis of the rights of the lusophone citizens of the CPLP countries.

In this context, they approved a resolution that recommends, to the next meeting of the Ministers Responsible for Security of the Member Countries of the CPLP, a profound analysis with a view to adopting measures that would facilitate the circulation of people in the CPLP space and requests that sectoral Meeting to submit a report, as detailed as possible, to the next Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the CPLP, containing recommendations in that regard.

8. They registered with satisfaction the wide participation by the civil society of Member Countries, reflected in the initiatives of sectors such as business, labour unions, women's organizations, legal professionals, writers and cultural figures, youth, cooperatives and others.

9. They took note of the sectoral meetings at ministerial level, the conclusions and recommendations of which constitute important defining elements for policies in the many fields of activity of the CPLP and encouraged the Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Postal Systems and Telecommunications, the Environment, Security, Justice, Public Administration, Education, Fisheries, Cooperation, Tourism, Health, Defence and Statistics, among others, to implement the decisions of those meetings, using, in cooperation with the Executive Secretary, all available mechanisms.

Similarly, they took note of the conclusions of the Statistics Conference of the CPLP and recommended the elaboration of an action plan in this area.

10. They adopted a resolution that establishes the Status of Observer to the CPLP and defines the procedures for their admission.

11. They considered the report of the Executive Secretary of the CPLP on the activities undertaken in the period 1996-1998, having registered with appreciation the gains achieved in the areas of internal structuring and operation of the Executive Secretariat.

They registered with appreciation the activity of the Executive Secretary in the affirmation of the CPLP at the international level, namely through the contacts and Agreements established with international organizations of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies and encouraged him to continue and deepen those relations.

12. They took note of the decisions of the Council of Ministers regarding the Action Programmes of the Executive Secretary and the budget for the economic year 1998-1999.

13. During an exchange of views on the situation internationally and in Member Countries, the Heads of State and Government:

- Condemned unequivocally the military rebellion in Guinea-Bissau and called for the reestablishment of democratic constitutional order in the country and support for the diplomatic initiatives for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the conflict;

- Agreed on the establishment of a Contact Group at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of External Relations with the aim of exploring the appropriate diplomatic means of bringing an end to the conflict. The Contact Group may coordinate with other initiatives of this type (bilateral, the OAU, the ECOWAS and the United Nations). The Contact Group will be constituted by the Republic of Cape Verde, which will be the coordinator, as President of the Council of Ministers of the CPLP, and by the Republic of Angola, the Federal Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Mozambique, the Portuguese Republic and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe;

- Agreed on the commitment of the CPLP to support the reconstruction of the country, once the democratic constitutional framework has been restored;

- Reaffirmed their support for the initiative of good offices by Angola and Portugal;

- Launched an appeal to all countries and organizations to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced persons and refugees, requesting the cooperation of all parties involved with a view to facilitating the channeling and distribution of humanitarian assistance, as well as the opening of humanitarian corridors;

- Welcomed the essential role played by Portugal and Cape Verde in evacuating and sheltering all those who, irrespective of their nationality, opted to leave the country, as well as in providing humanitarian assistance to those most affected.

14. When considering the situation in Angola, the Heads of State and Government noted with appreciation the role of the United Nations with regard to the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and, in this context, reiterated their profound sentiments of loss at the passing of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Maitre Alioune Blondin Beye, and of other nationals from other countries, namely of the CPLP, in the service of peace in Angola.

Concerned with the deterioration of the situation in the country, they deplored the intransigence of UNITA, evident in its not fully complying with the terms of the Lusaka Protocol, namely the extension of the State Administration to the entire territory of the country and the total demilitarization of its forces, persisting in carrying out armed actions against defenceless civilians, humanitarian assistance columns and staff in the service of NGO's and MONUA.

For this, they condemned the behaviour of UNITA and called for the scrupulous compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council conducive to the start of a new era of peace and harmony.

15. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their tireless support for the right to self-determination of the people of East Timor and the determination to continue focussing efforts towards a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor, in the full respect for the legitimate rights and aspirations of its people, in conformity with international law.

Registering with concern the persistent situation of the flagrant violation of human rights in that territory, they called for the strict observance of the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and appealed for the immediate and unconditional release of Xanana Gusmao and the other political prisoners of East Timor.

They expressed hope that the recent political developments in Indonesia would contribute to a new attitude by the Indonesian authorities with regard to the problem of East Timor and reiterated their support for the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to relaunch the tripartite dialogue between Portugal, Indonesia and the United Nations, with the inclusion of representatives of the Timorese people.

They decided to carry out appropriate initiatives with a view to sending a fact finding mission of the CPLP to East Timor.

16. With a view to developing politico-diplomatic cooperation and solidarity between Member Countries in the international area, they reiterated their commitment to deepening coordination in the context of the United Nations and other international organizations, as well as the need for a more dynamic participation in those *fora*.

They welcomed the introduction of Portuguese as a working language in the meetings of the EU/ACP and decided to continue to carry out efforts towards creating the conditions for using Portuguese as an official language in other multilateral *fora*.

They registered with great satisfaction the initiative to convene in the year 2000 the Europe-Africa Summit, an event to which they attribute the greatest diplomatic importance for the future of the relations between the two continents.

From this perspective, they considered indispensable a preparation aimed at obtaining significant results, particularly with respect to the economic and social development of the African continent.

17. In saluting the holding of the World Exposition of Lisbon, EXPO 98, on the theme "The Oceans, a Heritage for the Future", they underlined the role the event is playing in bringing attention to and identifying measures for a correct management of marine resources and the conservation of the environment, since on this depends the future of humanity.

18. A delegation of East Timor participated in the meetings of the Council of Ministers and of the Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the CPLP, in the capacity of Guest Observer.

Corresponding to the request formulated, the Heads of State and Government decided to confer the status of Guest Observer to the CPLP on East Timor.

19. They elected for a new mandate of two years to the position of Executive Secretary, Dr Marcolino Moco, and to the position of Deputy Executive

Secretary, Dr Rafael Branco, to whom they expressed their confidence and firm support in the carrying out of their respective functions.

20. They accepted with pleasure the offer of the Republic of Mozambique to host the III Conference of the Heads of State and Government, scheduled for 2000, and welcomed, with satisfaction, the offer of the Republic of Angola to host the IV Meeting of the Council of Ministers in 1999.

They expressed to the authorities and people of Cape Verde their appreciation for the welcome and hospitality dispensed to all participants in the II Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries.

Praia, 17 July 1998

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24 July 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 23 JULY 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the English translation of the note verbale dated 28 June 1998 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran, concerning a gross violation of the terms of ceasefire between the two countries.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mehdi DANESH-YAZDI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Note verbale dated 28 June 1998 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran and has the honour to state the following.

Relevant Iranian border authorities have reported that on 17 February 1998 at 1800 hours, an armed group of the terroristic so-called "People's Mujahideen Organization" crossed the border in the vicinity of the Shourshirin sentry post in the Ilam area and infiltrated into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They captured three personnel of this sentry post in an ambush and took them into the Iraqi territory. The names of the captured personnel are as follows:

1. Sergeant Mohsen Kohvand;

2. Conscript Hossein Shojaei;

3. Conscript Raza Izanlu.

The Islamic Republic of Iran hereby registers its strong objection to such acts, considers the Government of Iraq, which permits the presence of this terrorist organization in its territory and provides favourable conditions for this organization to organize terroristic and armed activities and sabotage against Iran, responsible for all aggressive acts by this organization, and demands the immediate release of the above-mentioned personnel.

The Islamic Republic of Iran expects the Government of Iraq to observe the rules and principles of international law and thereby give effect to its stated belief in good neighbourly relations and decreasing tension in the bilateral relations.

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24 July 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 23 JULY 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the English translation of the note verbale dated 20 June 1998 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mehdi DANESH-YAZDI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-21708 (E) 270798

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Annex

Note verbale dated 20 June 1998 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran and has the honour to state the following.

Relevant Iranian border authorities have reported that on 7 May 1998, at 2300 hours, an armed Iraqi group crossed the border and infiltrated into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, capturing a number of Iranian farmer who were harvesting their wheat crop in the Abiyeh area (between Abujamousa and Khorrabeh, Bostan border area) and took them into the Iraqi territory as hostages.

The said group has so far released several of the captured farmers but according to those released, four others are still detained by this armed group which is demanding a cash ransom of Rls 80 million for their release.

The names of the captured farmers are as follows:

1. Abbas Beit Ahmad, son of Jasb;

2. Abour Abidavi, son of Saleh;

3. Ayat Zareh, combine driver;

4. Ali Zareh, combine driver.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while registering its strong objection to the wrongful and improper act committed by this armed Iraqi group in crossing the common border between the two countries and infiltrating the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, holds the Government of Iraq, because of its negligence and non-compliance with its international obligations responsible as to the consequences of the said armed action and urgently requests the latter to release the above-mentioned four Iranian farmers and prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future.

It is needless to point out that the responsibility for any adverse effect of such incidents should be borne by the Government of Iraq.

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24 July 1998
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ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 24 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 23 July 1998 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahhaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. It concerns the poor performance of United Nations agencies in implementing that part of the oil-for-food programme that relates to Iraq's three northern governorates (Irbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah) and the need for consultations between the Iraqi governmental executing institutions and those agencies with a view to reaching agreement on the optimal modality for achieving the level of implementation required for the programme, in the same way that agreement was reached with regard to the bulk purchase of food and medicines.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-21732 (E) 270798 270798

Annex

Identical letters dated 23 July 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Mr. Benon V. Sevan, Executive Director of the Iraq Programme of the United Nations Secretariat, must have informed you in detail of the results of his visit to Iraq from 22 June to 3 July 1998. He must also have provided you with the details of his meetings with senior Iraqi officials and, in particular, with those of his meeting with Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Vice-President of the Republic, including His Excellency's comments on the poor performance of the United Nations agencies in implementing that part of the plan that relates to the country's three northern governorates, namely Irbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah.

I therefore feel it necessary to present to you hereunder the detailed comments of the Government of the Republic of Iraq on this matter.

In accordance with paragraph 3 of the annex to the memorandum of understanding of 20 May 1996, the Government of Iraq procures all of Iraq's requirements for the three northern governorates in only two sectors, food and medicine, while United Nations agencies, each in accordance with its own field of specialization and acting on behalf of the Government of Iraq, procures the other items covered by the memorandum of understanding for the sectors of agriculture, electricity, education, rehabilitation, resettlement, water and sanitation, and mine clearance as they relate to those governorates.

As all the United Nations agencies can testify, practical and tangible experience has demonstrated that there is meticulous performance and a high standard of implementation in the food and medicine sectors, where Iraq's Ministry of Trade and Ministry of Health have assumed the task of importing and distributing all of the country's needs in terms of food and medicine under the procurement and distribution plans in effect while the specialized agencies have undertaken such implementation in the other sectors.

In your periodic reports to the Security Council on the implementation of the three procurement and distribution plans, you have referred to the fact that the governmental institutions are performing the tasks assigned to them under the terms of the memorandum of understanding in an excellent manner despite the numerous obstacles and impediments there have been to the rapid and smooth approval of and provision of financial coverage for contracts for the items included in those plans.

In contrast, a rapid glance at the levels of performance and implementation of the United Nations agencies involved in the implementation of that section of the plans that relates to the three northern governorates reveals the painful fact of the poor performance of these agencies. In some sectors, it is at a level that approaches zero for all three previous phases of the procurement and distribution plans despite the higher percentage of approvals by the 661 Committee for contracts relating to the various sectors in the northern governorates than for other contracts. This is also despite the large-scale

mobilization of international and local officials who are entrusted with the implementation process at the expense of the Iraqi people. The table presented hereunder shows the levels of implementation by the United Nations agencies in all sectors in the three northern governorates for phase I, which ended more than one year ago, and phase II, which ended more than six months ago.

Agriculture	Executing agency	Amount allocated in the plan	Percentage of contract amount approved by 661 Committee	Percentage of items received	Percentage execution
Phase I	FAO	20.11	97.12	87.77	42.86
Phase II	FAO	26.00	97.42	24.85	3.77
Electricity	**Executing agency**	**Amount allocated in the plan**	**Percentage of contract amount approved by 661 Committee**	**Percentage of items received**	**Percentage execution**
Phase I	UNDP	23.27	88.61	10.14	2.19
Phase II	UNDP	19.30	91.55	0	0
Education	**Executing agency**	**Amount allocated in the plan**	**Percentage of contract amount approved by 661 Committee**	**Percentage of items received**	**Percentage execution**
Phase I	UNESCO	5.15	4.77	62.72	30.29
	UNICEF	10.00	9.50	36.10	32.20
Phase II	UNESCO	5.00	1.80	0	0
	UNICEF	10.00	91.50	0.59	0
Health rehabilitation	**Executing agency**	**Amount allocated in the plan**	**Percentage of contract amount approved by 661 Committee**	**Percentage of items received**	**Percentage execution**
Phase I	UNICEF	3.70	97.57	58.11	54.05
	WHO	6.40	97.97	70.31	58.44
Phase II	UNICEF	3.70	84.43	2.7	0
	WHO	6.00	91	0	0
Water and sanitation	**Executing agency**	**Amount allocated in the plan**	**Percentage of contract amount approved by 661 Committee**	**Percentage of items received**	**Percentage execution**
Phase I	UNICEF	20.20	91.49	35.35	17.87
Phase II	UNICEF	19.61	96.63	0.41	0.06
Resettlement	**Executing agency**	**Amount allocated in the plan**	**Percentage of contract amount approved by 661 Committee**	**Percentage of items received**	**Percentage execution**
Phase I	Habitat	12.00	30.08	65.17	55.67
Phase II	Habitat	6.00	9	75.33	0

Mine clearance	Executing agency	Amount allocated in the plan	Percentage of contract amount approved by 661 Committee	Percentage of items received	Percentage execution
Phase I	Demining	2.50	36.40	76.40	76.40
Phase II	Demining	2.00	22.50	0	0

The figures and rates I have given you demonstrate conclusively that these agencies are incapable of meeting this responsibility. Iraq is not a refugee camp, and it is not a State in the process of formation. You are therefore well aware that Iraqi governmental institutions are deep-rooted and that they act in response to the needs of Iraqi citizens in all parts of the country in an integrated manner and with a high degree of efficiency and expertise. The United Nations agencies have manifestly failed to implement, on behalf of the Iraqi Government, that part of the plan that relates to the three governorates of northern Iraq. The percentages given for execution in the foregoing table confirm that the completion rates for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the electricity sector were 2.19 per cent in phase I and zero per cent in phase II. We can also say that it has been zero per cent in phase III. At the same time, the 661 Committee approved 88.61 per cent of the electricity-related contracts for phase I and 91.55 per cent of those for phase II. This means that the execution rate for UNDP, which has been assigned the electricity sector in the northern region, has been approximately zero per cent over an 18-month period.

The situation with respect to the level of implementation by UNESCO and UNICEF in the education sector is similar, inasmuch as their implementation rate for phase I did not surpass 30 per cent while that for phase II has been zero per cent. This extends to the performance of the United Nations agencies in the water and sanitation sectors, which is handled by UNICEF, and the resettlement sector, which is handled by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), where the highest rates of implementation do not surpass 50 per cent at best.

At the same time, some 2.2 per cent of the total amount for the procurement and distribution plans, or more than 200 million dollars, has been allocated for purposes of implementation and for disbursement on administrative costs that include expenditures on the United Nations officials involved and on other items. I wonder, Mr. Secretary-General, whether it would not have been better to allocate this huge sum for the provision of further quantities of food, medicine and humanitarian supplies for the generality of the people of Iraq rather than for disbursement on agencies that claim to be of a humanitarian character while endeavouring with all the capacities they possess to suppress the humanity of the Iraqis in the northern governorates while using the wealth of the Iraqi people itself to do so.

As it expresses its dissatisfaction with this state of affairs, the Government of the Republic of Iraq, in a genuine desire to achieve the best possible rates of implementation in the three northern governorates, considers that there should be consultations between the Iraqi governmental executing

institutions and the relevant specialized agencies with a view to reaching agreement on the optimal modality for achieving this objective. This could be done in the same way that agreement was reached on the bulk purchase of food and medicines that has proved so highly capable of implementation.

We request that this matter be accorded the necessary importance before the opportunity is lost of finding a speedy solution for the collaboration of these agencies with the Iraqi authorities in accordance with an expeditious and serious plan for all sectors but particularly the electricity sector. We stand ready to consider any proposals you may have on this matter.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

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24 July 1998

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LETTER DATED 24 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you a statement issued today, 24 July 1998, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea concerning Ethiopia's gross violations of the human rights of Eritrean civilians living in that country.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-21714 (E) 240798

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Annex

Statement on Ethiopia's gross violation of basic human rights

In an affront to the international community, which has been interceding with the Ethiopian Government to stop the massive and illegal arrest of Eritreans residing in Ethiopia, the Addis Ababa authorities have started a third wave of arrests in preparation for more deportations. There are ominous reports of fresh and widespread arrests, especially in Addis Ababa in the past three days.

More than 11,000 Eritreans were rounded up and deported in the most inhumane way in two previous rounds from major centres in the country and villages in the border areas. People were dragged from their homes in the middle of the night, families cruelly separated from their underage children, and even suckling babies left behind. Property was looted after the families were deported and dispersed.

The Ethiopian authorities have also arrested thousands of young Eritreans under the ridiculous claim that their enrolment in the national service, the summer school campaign or previous role in the liberation war renders them "a potential threat to the security of Ethiopia". More than 1,000 Eritrean youth thus remain "prisoners of war" in a detention camp at Fitche. Eighty university students are included among these hostages. Many innocent Eritreans are also being held in prisons in other parts of the country, particularly in Makelle and Adi Grat. Two Eritrean Catholic nuns were recently arrested in Adi Grat, while five other priests who were running schools in south-eastern Ethiopia were deported.

Eritreans who hold the nationality of other countries are similarly being arrested and deported, although some have been rescued owing to the protests of their respective embassies.

Many Governments, international agencies and human rights groups have been interceding with the Ethiopian authorities to stop this gross violation of human rights, but "quiet diplomacy" has not delivered tangible results. The authorities in Addis Ababa continue to trample on basic human rights and pursue with impunity the arbitrary arrest and mass deportation of Eritreans in total contempt of the concerns of the international community. The Ethiopian Prime Minister even had the temerity to publicly state that "Ethiopia has an unlimited right to expel any foreigner if it did not like the colour of his/her eyes".

Addis Ababa is moreover resorting to the most base practice of fabricating lies to accuse the Eritrean Government of similar violation of human rights. To this end, it has revived the "Moral Boosting Department" which the Mengistu regime had established with the help of the former German Democratic Republic to concoct and spread lies to disinform the domestic and international communities. Among the outrageous lies that this Department has fabricated this week are wild allegations of "group rapes by Eritrean fighters"; "burning of seven Ethiopians in Alla", "the wanton shooting of Ethiopians who wanted to return to their country in Adi Quala", "the public beating of Ethiopian civilians in Asmara and

the parading of prisoners of war". The banality of these allegations has been verified by a British Broadcasting Corporation correspondent in Eritrea, the International Committee of the Red Cross and members of the diplomatic community in Asmara, but the international press continues to pick up these allegations at face value without the necessary verification.

The Government of Eritrea finds the silence in the face of Ethiopia's gross violation of human rights and the inflammatory campaign of disinformation shocking and unacceptable. The international community should no longer confine its reactions to mute diplomatic protests. These excesses must be condemned publicly and unequivocally.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Asmara
24 July 1998